

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Recruitment of Students for the Mining Industry

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25X1A DATE OF INFORMATION

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1. Two months prior to the end of the prescribed term of school attendance, schools in Czechoslovakia are visited by an official representative of the Okres National Committee, Labor Protection Branch. The entire student body is addressed regarding choice of employment (on a career basis) in the building, mining or metallurgical industries. The boys are advised to choose one of the suggested trades, and the girls are encouraged to enlist in light industry work, such as precision mechanics, lathe operating, etc. Each student is given a questionnaire which he is to fill out indicating his choice.

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[redacted] in Sokolov was visited, about a week before the end of the school year, by a group of mining apprentices from Sokolov, who gave a dramatic portrayal of the daily life of a mining apprentice, and followed it by recruiting applicants on the spot. All students who signed up for mining, in the Karlovy Vary kraj, were taken to Prague on a tour, and then to Lany. They travelled from Karlovy Vary to Prague by bus and stayed in the city for two days; they were shown all the sights of Prague, and were later taken to Lany for a reception given by President Klement Gottwald at his summer residence.

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2. [redacted] all volunteers were summoned to the State Apprentice Home in Sokolov. [redacted] about 450 [redacted] entered on duty as apprentices. All apprentices were billeted in the home [See Enclosure (A)]. It is presumed that circled number four, see legend, refers to this home, which consisted of five three-story brick buildings measuring [redacted] 40 by 15 meters each. The apprentices are assigned five to a room throughout the home; each house has a "house-leader" and three educators, all of whom have had special political training, who are to look after the "correct" education of the apprentices in the Communist spirit.

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1. Clothes issuance to each apprentice was as follows: one dress uniform and walking out mining uniform [sic], six shirts, six pairs of training shorts /blue or basket-ball shorts/, two pairs of warm winter underwear, four pairs of socks, one winter coat, one raincoat, one pair of leather working boots, one pair of rubber working boots, and one pair of dress shoes.

2. Apprentice wages were 1.260 crowns, plus 200 crowns spending money, a month. From which sum 600 crowns were deducted for room and board. The remainder of the wages were deposited in the apprentice's name and paid out upon completion of his term of apprenticeship. (Food in the apprentice home was sufficient, but plain. The boys did not starve.)

3. Schedule: During the first three months of apprenticeship, the apprentices work only above ground. The apprentices are divided into two working shifts. The first shift works from 0500 to 1400 hours, and the second shift works from 1400 to 2200 hours. Reveille for the first shift is at 0500, and for the second at 0700 hours. The daily schedule for the 0500 reveille shift is as follows:

0500 to 0545:	rooms are tidied and cleaned, and breakfast is served
0545 to 1400:	actual working hours, including time to get to place of work
1400 to 1500:	lunch hour
1500 to 1600:	period of prescribed rest
1600 to 1830:	period of miscellaneous activity (discussion groups, political training, physical training, etc.)
1830 to 1930:	supper
1930 to 2030:	period of political training or supplementary study group
2030 to 2100:	ready for bed
2100 hours:	lights out sounded.

4. Military training took place weekly. The boys were divided into groups for this, so that a different group had training each day. Non-commissioned officers from the Sokolov garrison gave the training. The training continued throughout the two years of mining apprenticeship. Apprentices learned to handle rifles, pistols and machine pistols. Assembling, disassembling, and recognition of the major parts of the above weapons was a part of the training. Blank cartridges were fired from all of these weapons during training; and throwing of hand grenades, both dummies and live grenades, was included. The boys learned to read road maps, and performed battle exercises in the field; they also participated in a night problem. (At about 2400 hours, one night, a general alarm was sounded in the apprentice home and almost simultaneously, soldiers stormed into the rooms shooting blanks. This was intended to simulate "an attack by saboteurs". In all the noise and confusion, the boys dressed. The night problem ended at about 0500 hours, and the boys, divided into groups each of which was taken over by a non-commissioned officer, participated in evaluation discussions. A lieutenant evaluated the final results.)

5. Political training consisted chiefly of lectures extolling the advantages of the Soviet Union, the importance of the October Revolution and the February 1948 revolution in Czechoslovakia, the development of socialism in Czechoslovakia, the advantages of the Unified Agricultural Cooperatives, etc. Each apprentice was required to belong to the CSM [Czechoslovak Federation of Youth]. Apprentice morale was low. 80 percent of the apprentices had been placed in this work against their will; they demonstrated no interest in Communist propaganda, and privately laughed at the Party functionaries and the CSM. Whenever possible, the apprentices avoided meetings and celebrations. For instance, [] all the apprentices were ordered to join the May Day parade, despite which order some 60 did not join. These apprentices were summoned before (fnu) Hrbka, Director of the Apprentice Home, and formerly clerk in the Labor Protection Branch. The offenders were severely criticized, and told that they had undermined the socialist achievement, for which their fathers had fought for decades. The director stated that if any more such incidents occurred, the apprentices in question would be dismissed from the Apprentice School and placed in a youth labor camp. On several occasions prior to that the State Apprentice School for Mining Apprentices had been visited at night by policemen who departed with several apprentices who were never seen again. []

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- 25X1A 8. Upon completion of the Apprentice Course, the apprentices are sent to the mines to the Sokolov region mines. When a miner's home is some distance from Sokolov, it is made possible for him to live in the youth home established in Poltav [REDACTED] This home is a new, three-story brick building.

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ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch-map of Sokolov area, with legend, showing location of State
Apprentice Home (circled number four)

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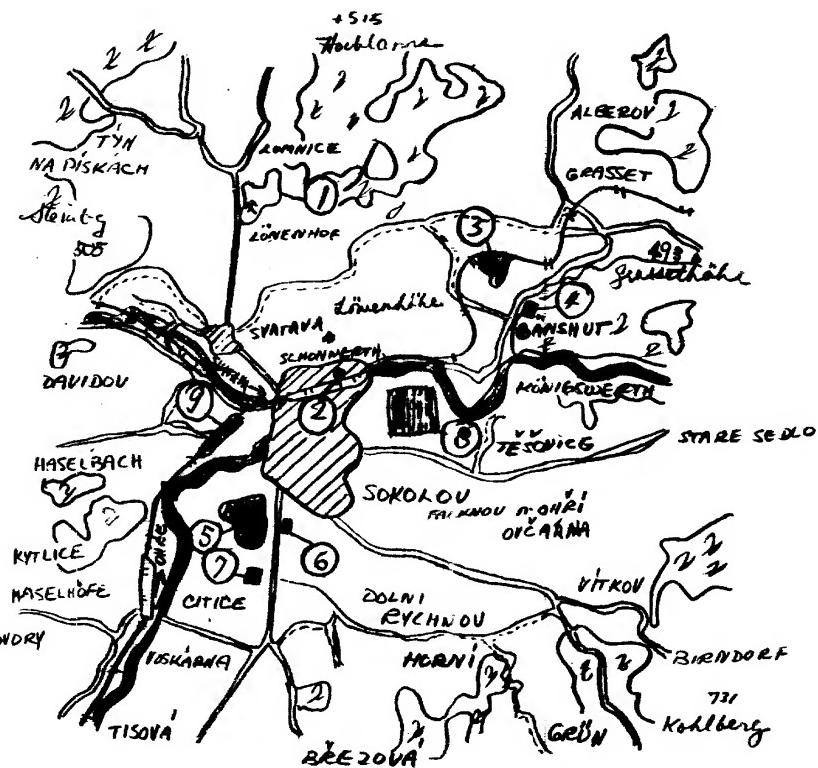
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ENCLOSURE (A)

30° 17'

30° 20'

50' 15'

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VOJENSKÝ ZEMĚPISNÝ USTAV v PRAZE

Legend: Sokolov Area

1. "Jiri" mine
2. Pithead tower of the mine
3. "Marie Majerova" mine
4. State School of Mining Sciences
5. "Antonine" Mine
6. Power Plant
7. General Directorate HDSS (Brown Coal Mines and Briquette Works - Sokolov)
8. Chemical Plant
9. Classification yard (railroad) in Sokolov